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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.41/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. At its 50th meeting, on 20 November 2007, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.41/Rev.1 on the situation of human rights in Myanmar. The Committee was informed of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution in a statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.3/62/L.83).

2. Under the terms of paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.41/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and the people of Myanmar, including all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process in Myanmar, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard;

(b) To closely monitor the developments with regard to the violent incidents that took place, with the aim of preventing the resumption of violence;

(c) To give all necessary assistance to enable the Special Adviser and the Special Rapporteur to discharge their mandates fully and effectively and in a coordinated manner;

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(d) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009

3. The foregoing requests relate to subprogramme 1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, of programme 2, Political affairs, and subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, and subprogramme 4, Support for human rights thematic fact-finding procedures, of programme 19, Human rights, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009.[1]

III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

4. In his report to the General Assembly (A/62/498), the Secretary-General indicated that further efforts had been made to engage the Myanmar authorities, as well as key interested Member States, in support of his good offices mission. Those efforts were intensified in response to the crisis that broke out in Myanmar on 19 August 2007. The Secretary-General issued statements expressing his concern at the escalation of tensions on the ground and reports of continued human rights violations. He called upon the Government of Myanmar to heed the concerns and requests of the international community for maximum restraint and dialogue and to ensure immediate access to all detainees.

5. The Secretary-General strongly believes that there should be opportunities in the period ahead to improve the outcome of the National Convention in ways that are more inclusive, participatory and transparent. He also believes that the Government of Myanmar should seize the opportunity to take bold actions towards democratization and respect for human rights. The Secretary-General welcomed the possibility of a meeting between Senior General Than Shwe and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and urged both parties to display maximum flexibility and engage in meaningful dialogue. In addition, he has urged the Government to be more responsive to the extremely fragile humanitarian and socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country. The Secretary-General believes that any serious steps on the political front should be acknowledged by the international community through the provision of incentives in the socio-economic area.

6. The Secretary-General is thus committed to making every effort to steer Myanmar towards national reconciliation, the transition to democracy and full respect for human rights as the necessary foundations for long-term stability and prosperity. He welcomes the constructive role played by Myanmar's neighbours and by the members of the Association of South-east Asian Nations, and encourages such efforts to continue.

7. Consistent with the requests contained in paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.41/Rev.1, the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General would

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1).

be continued in 2008, in pursuit of his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and the people of Myanmar, as well as all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process. The efforts of his good offices would be carried out through his Special Envoy and the progress made in the implementation of the resolution would be reported to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

IV. Estimated resource requirements

8. The estimated costs of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General to facilitate the process of national reconciliation and democratization through his Special Envoy for Myanmar, as requested in paragraph 6 (a), (b), (c) and (d) of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.41/Rev.1, for a one-year period, from 1 January to 31 December 2008, amount to $781,900 net ($865,100 gross).

9. These resources would cover the salaries for the Special Envoy including two support staff (1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level)); the official travel of the Special Envoy to Myanmar, neighbouring countries in the region, Europe and North America, including United Nations Headquarters; the services of a consultant; and miscellaneous services in support of his mission. Other substantive and administrative support to the Special Envoy would be provided by the Department of Political Affairs.

10. With regard to the request contained in the last part of paragraph 6 (a), concerning technical assistance, such assistance, if requested, would be accommodated within the technical cooperation activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. As to the request contained in paragraph 6 (c), pertaining to the Special Rapporteur, the Secretary-General in his statement of programme budget implications informed the Human Rights Council upon adoption of its resolution S-5/1, that the estimated requirements of $46,700 required to implement activities called for in the resolution would be absorbed within the appropriations approved for the biennium 2006-2007. The Secretary-General would also inform the General Assembly, on the estimated requirements, in his report on the revised estimates resulting from resolution S-5/1. The requirements fall under section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

11. With regard to the biennium 2008-2009, no additional resources are requested for section 23, Human rights, at this juncture in the light of the continuing review by the Human Rights Council of its subsidiary machinery in response to General Assembly resolution 60/251. Should additional resources be required, a consolidated statement of requirements arising from the continuing review by the Human Rights Council and potential absorptive capacity from reduced requirements arising from the amended programme of work under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 would be reported to the General Assembly.

V. Summary

12. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.41/Rev.1, additional requirements amounting to $781,900 net ($865,100 gross) would be**

required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008 for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar.

13. **These requirements would be charged against the provision of $604,060,100 for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Approval for these requirements will be sought in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/62/512/Add.1).**